



Technical Assistance Exchange January 22, 2014

Contact us with questions about this newsletter:
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Please visit the [ADRC-TAE Website](#) for a text version of this newsletter.

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New Hampshire Successes Highlighted in USA Today Article

A recent article entitled, [ACA Offers Incentives to Keep Older People Out of Nursing Homes](#), provides coverage of New Hampshire's successes and ongoing efforts to support community living. It focuses on the federal Balancing Incentives Program and No Wrong Door systems.

The article highlights how New Hampshire no longer has people with I/DD living in nursing facilities and looks toward the state applying similar strategies for other population groups. New Hampshire is just one of many states with success in programs focused on transitions and community living.

New Hampshire is one of the ADRC Enhanced Options Counseling / Part A Grantees and we'll be highlighting the work that New Hampshire and other states have engaged in over the past year during ACL's quarterly Part B Grantees Update call. In addition to recent activities and an overview of what's to come, ACL will also share information about funding for 2014.

Quarterly Part B Grantees Update Call

*Thursday, January 30, 2014, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

*[Register Here](#)

*Provide your number when you join the training session to receive a call back. Alternatively, you can call: 1-763-957-6300; Meeting ID: 640 480 286

New CMS Rule Strengthens Community Living Options

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [Final Rule](#) to ensure that Medicaid's home and community-based services programs provide full access to the benefits of community living and offer services in the most integrated settings. The rule, as part of the Affordable Care Act, supports the Department of Health and Human Services' Community Living Initiative. This initiative was launched in 2009 to develop and implement innovative strategies to increase opportunities for Americans with disabilities and older adults to enjoy meaningful community living.

Under the final rule, Medicaid programs must support home and community-based settings that serve as an alternative to institutional care and that take into account the quality of individuals' experiences. The final rule includes a transitional period for states to ensure that their programs meet the home and community-based services settings requirements.

The [Final Rule](#) includes the following enhancements to Medicaid HCBS:

- Provides implementing regulations for new flexibilities enacted under the Affordable Care Act to offer expanded HCBS and to target services to specific populations;
- Defines and describes the requirements for home and community-based settings;
- Specifies that service planning must be developed through a person-centered planning process that reflects individual preferences and goals; and
- Provides states with additional flexibilities when designing and administering HCBS waivers.

"People with disabilities and older adults have a right to live, work, and participate in the greater community. HHS, through its Community Living Initiative, has been expanding and improving the community services necessary to make this a reality," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Today's announcement will help ensure that all people participating in Medicaid home and community-based services programs have full access to the benefits of community living."

[Fact Sheets](#) and the [Press Release](#) are available online.

New Resources



[Healthy Transitions: A Pathway to Employment for Youth with Chronic Health Conditions and Other Disabilities](#) is a new study on health care transition and employment recently released by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). It explains how provisions in the ACA have significant potential to transform health care

transition planning. The focus is on challenges and opportunities associated with implementing purposeful planned health care transition planning and its impact on employment for youth with chronic health conditions and other disabilities.



[Reducing Non-urgent Use of Emergency Departments and Improving Appropriate Care in Appropriate Settings](#) is a new informational bulletin from CMS.

Medicaid beneficiaries use emergency departments for non-urgent needs at nearly twice the rate of privately insured beneficiaries. The bulletin summarizes strategies to deliver appropriate care in the most appropriate settings.

Upcoming Events

1) HCBS Final Rule Webinar

The final HCBS regulations, discussed in an article above, set forth new requirements for several Medicaid authorities under which states may provide home and community-based long-term services and supports. CMS will host a webinar to discuss the new rule, and to answer any questions.

***Thursday, January 23, 1:00-3:00 PM ET**

***1-877-267-1577; PIN: 993724826**

***Webinar Repeat: Thursday, January 30, 1:00-3:00 PM ET**

***1-877-267-1577; PIN: 990895287**

[*Registration and More Information](#)

2) Olmstead is the Mandate, ACA the Opportunity Housing Webinar

Abt Associates is hosting this webinar to explore ways that linking community-based housing to health services can better serve the most vulnerable populations. Some of the nation's leading experts from federal and state agencies and policy organizations will present during the webinar.

***Friday, January 24, 12:30-2:00 PM ET**

[*Register Here](#)

3) Quarterly Part B Webinar

This launches the Quarterly Part B Webinar series from ACL through the ADRC-TAE. This webinar will provide information on 2014 funding. Additionally, it will feature updates and highlight upcoming communications for Part B grantees. Don't miss this great information for Part B states!

***Thursday, January 30, 2:00-3:00 PM ET**

[*Register Here](#)

4) Preventing Readmissions and Coordinating with CCTP Sites

This webinar from Partnership for Patients (PfP) Campaign will provide an in depth look at how community partnerships have

collaborated on system transformations to produce extraordinary readmission improvements. It will share how alignment with partners, such as Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) sites can assist HENs and hospitals to achieve compelling performance data in readmissions, and also deliver effective care transition models.

***Tuesday, February 4, 3:00-4:30 PM ET**

[*Register Here](#)

You can always view future events of interest to ADRC stakeholders on the [ADRC-TAE Calendar](#). Please send suggestions of national events to include to ADRC-TAE@Lewin.com.

TAE Tip of the Week:

There has been new activity in the [TAE Online Discussion Forum](#) on the ADRC-TAE Website. You can access the TAE Online Discussion Forum in the side navigation window on the homepage (below the Twitter and "ADRCs in the News" buttons). Check it out and join the discussion!

Contact us anytime at adrc-tae@lewin.com for website support.